

## QUICK NOTES

- Current ALWG Cadet Membership -265

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 29 Aug-01 Sept—Region Cadet Leadership School (Ocala, FL)
- 20 September—Cadet Advisory Council (Bessemer, AL)
- 20 Sept—Wings and Wheels Air Show (Bessemer, AL)
- 21-22 Nov—Iron Man (Auburn, AL)
- 5 December—Dothan Squadron Christmas Party (Dothan, AL)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Spaatz Award      | 2 |
| Encampment Photos | 3 |
| Iron Man          | 4 |
| Dothan Party      | 4 |
| Editorial         | 5 |
| RCLS              | 5 |
| Director's Desk   | 6 |

# Cadet Program Quarterly

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## Alabama and Mississippi Members Join for Successful Encampment

**Gulfport, MS** - The combined Alabama/Mississippi Wing Encampment proved to be a resounding success, with many staff members commenting before the week was over that this year's group was the best class of basic cadets that they had ever seen.

In all, 78 cadets (basic and staff) and 16 senior members participated in the camp, held at the Mississippi Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, MS.

The basic cadets arrived nervous, disorganized, and loaded down with the multiple bags necessary to contain everything on the required gear list. They began a week of high-intensity training, guided by members of their cadet staff. As they navigated the in-processing line, cadet staff members and Tactical Officers kept the pressure on to move quickly from station to station and come to attention when officers passed by. Flight sergeants eagerly awaited the cadets arrival at the barracks, where they were to receive instruction on bunk making and locker standardization.

formation took place in the parking lot of the classroom building at 3:30 pm. Squadron and flight commanders reported to the cadet commander, C/LtCol. Stephanie Petelos to formally assume command of their units and guidons. The cadets marched back to their barracks to prepare their equipment for the week ahead. Later that evening, the command staff briefed the basic cadets on what was expected of them for the rest of the week.

Every morning at 0500, cadets awoke to motivated staff members encouraging them to get outside for PT. A confused gaggle of sleepy eyed cadets streamed from the barracks where they were called into formation by C/CMSgt. John-Anthony Jimenez. They then participated in a physical training regimen that included stretches, calisthenics, running, and team-building exercises.

After breakfast and the posting of the colors, the cadets embarked on a journey that included a wide array of experiences.

Early in the week, fundamentals important to encampment success were stressed, such as a

uniform wear class presented by C/LtCol. Colby Hester. There were also several classes that offered a look at some of the basics of Civil Air Patrol and the Cadet Program. Cadets participated in a Drug Demand Reduction session, and Emergency Services classes that included hands on use of direction finder and compass.

There was also much fun to be had in between the drudgery of the necessary drill and classes. Cadets participated in "Project X" - a series of exercises focused on improving teamwork. They were also treated to a very "behind the scenes" tour of Keesler AFB, which included a visit with the world famous "Hurricane Hunters". The highlight of the week for many was the orientation flight day, where all cadets were given the chance to fly on either CAP aircraft or a KC-135 operated by the 186th Air Refueling Wing. The cadets on the refueling mission got to see the USAF's newest fighter, the F-22 Raptor in action. The week concluded with a "combat" dining-in and weather abbreviated graduation. There was a 100% graduation rate. For pictures and more, visit [www.almencampment.com](http://www.almencampment.com)  
-C/Col. Morgan Bennett

The encampment's first official

# New Spaatz Cadet!



Pell City - Cadet Col. Morgan Bennett of the Pell City Composite Squadron has earned the Gen. Carl A. Spaatz Award, Civil Air Patrol's highest cadet honor, presented in recognition of demonstrated excellence in leadership, character, fitness and aerospace education.

Bennett, who joined Civil Air Patrol in January 2003, was recognized with the Cadet of the Year Award for 2007-08. She attended Cadet Officer School in 2007, Air Force Space Command Familiarization Course at Patrick Air Force Base, FL, in 2007, Engineering Technologies Academy at Auburn University in 2005 and the Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Familiarization Course at Columbus Air Force Base, MS, in 2008.

She was also the Alabama/Mississippi Wing Summer Encampment Cadet Executive Officer in 2008 and has served on the Cadet Advisory Council for the Alabama Wing as the 2008 Vice Chairperson.

She has completed the requirements to be a search and rescue ground team leader, an urban direction finding team member and an air crew mission scanner. In addition, she holds an Amateur Radio Operators' Technician License.

Bennett will attend Auburn University in the fall on an Air Force ROTC scholarship, majoring in aerospace engineering. Selected as an elite scholar, she received a Spirit of Auburn Presidential Scholarship and a Dean of Engineering Scholarship from the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering.

Cadets qualify for the Spaatz award after devoting an average of five years to progress through 16 achievements in the CAP Cadet Program. Along the way they develop self-discipline, a strong sense of personal responsibility, the ability to lead and persuade, and the foundation necessary for pursuing a career in aviation, space or technology.

Only about 2 in 1,000 cadets -- some 1,700 cadets in all -- have earned the Spaatz award since it was established in 1964. Earning the award requires passing a rigorous four-part exam consisting of a challenging physical fitness test, an essay exam testing their moral reasoning, a comprehensive written exam on leadership, and a comprehensive written exam on aerospace education.

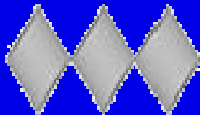
The award is named in honor of Carl "Tooe" Spaatz, first chief of staff of the U.S. Air Force. One of the giants in the history of airpower, in 1929 Spaatz and another pilot set a flight endurance record of 150 hours and 40 minutes in the early days of aviation. During World War II he commanded the Allied air campaign against the Nazis. In the Pacific Theater, the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki took place under his command. After retiring from the Air Force, Spaatz served as the first chairman of the CAP National Board.

Cadet Bennett is the second Alabama Wing cadet this year to earn this award. For more information on the Spaatz Award, visit [www.spaatz.org](http://www.spaatz.org).

- Maj. Pat Mitcham Contributed this report.



C/Col. Morgan Bennett



# 2008 AL/MS Encampment Gallery (14-21 June 2008)





# Auburn Issues Iron Man Challenge!



Do you have what it takes? Iron Man will see what you're made of!

"...if we don't get a squadron to this event, it's because they didn't know how much fun it was."  
- LtCol. Lynn

Auburn - Cadets from across the nation are invited to the 2008 Civil Air Patrol Iron Man Competition, set for Nov. 21-22 in Auburn, Ala.

The Auburn Composite Squadron, which hosts the Iron Man Competition, has launched a web site ([www.areyouanironman.com](http://www.areyouanironman.com)) to promote the event. The competition will be held from 7:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21, at the Nichols Center (Air Force ROTC detachment) at Auburn University.

The competition brings together the three core missions of the Civil Air Patrol - emergency services, aerospace education, and cadet programs - into a single challenge that tests both the physical and mental capabilities of cadet and senior members alike.

Competition consists of five events - a "super" physical

fitness test, a uniform and military knowledge inspection a compass navigation and direction-finding course and a drill event.

The capstone event, dubbed the "Iron Man Run" -- a two-to four-mile run/walk with multiple "task objective" stops that will challenge each team's endurance, creativity, professional knowledge and cooperative skills.



**Col. Berta A. Edge Composite Squadron 2007 Winners**

"We bring units from all over the state of Alabama and Mississippi," said Lt. Col. Brad Lynn, Alabama Wing deputy director of cadet programs for the 2007 event. "This competi-

tion touched every area of the cadet program. I thought all of the cadets were tremendously motivated and were all very team-oriented."

Lynn said he hopes to see all Alabama Wing squadrons participate in the event this year and expand the event to include as many teams from other wings and regions as possible.

"I feel like if we don't get a squadron to this event, it's because they didn't know how much fun it was," he said.

Overall honors in the 2007 competition went to the Col. Berta A. Edge Composite Squadron of Biloxi, MS, which will defend its title this year.

- Capt. Jonathan Lartigue contributed this report.

## Dothan Squadron Invites Cadets to Christmas Party

Christmas is just around the corner. Put your party in CPQ!



Dothan - On December 5, 2008, the Dothan Composite Squadron will be hosting a Christmas Dining In from 1800—2300. They have invited all ALWG cadets to attend and bring

dates.

Cost for this event should be about \$20.00 per person. Most of the details including menu are still being worked out at this time.

This should be a great opportunity to meet and enjoy a time of fellowship with other

CAP members.

For more information, contact LtCol. Brett Lewis at 334-432-3335 or [brett\\_lewis64@yahoo.com](mailto:brett_lewis64@yahoo.com).

If your squadron is hosting a holiday event and others are invited, let CPQ know!

# Editorial: Composite Squadrons?

By Capt. Justin Smith, Alabama Wing Director of Cadet Programs

The membership body of the Civil Air Patrol has long been a diverse mix of youth (Cadet) and adult (Senior) members. Accordingly squadrons have been organized into Cadet, Senior, and Composite Squadrons. Cadet Squadrons typically are comprised entirely of cadets with 3 or more Senior Members present in a supervisory capacity, Senior Squadrons are made entirely of Seniors, and Composite Squadrons are made of Cadets and Seniors conducting both programs.

Currently with the exception of three Senior Squadrons, two flights, and a school program, ALL units in Alabama are designated as COMPOSITE Squadrons. That's 16 Composite Squadron's in the state of Alabama. Of these, five have two or fewer cadets on their roster. This is nothing new but instead a trend I have monitored and have grown more frustrated in since becoming the Alabama Wing DCP.

When questioning these units about the status of the cadet program I've heard everything under the sun, ranging from "We don't have anyone to run our cadet pro-

gram" or "We need to get these cadets that don't show up anymore off our roster so we can be a Senior Squadron." There are terrible fallacies to both of these points.

In any unit, unfilled staff billets are automatically absorbed by the unit commander until filled. If you are in command of one of these units and you don't have a Deputy Commander for the cadet portion of your unit, that's your job. You need to be doing the recruiting. You need to be doing the program implementation. If you're not doing this, you need to stop waiting for someone to do it for you and fulfill the total purpose of your unit. If the Senior half of your unit is thriving, congratulations. However, you're only half-way successful without the same measure of success for your cadets. In fact, without a cadet program at all, I would say that you were failing.

To the Composite Squadrons that want to be Senior Squadrons and view cadets as an obstacle to your intentions, I ask why? Cadets can bring so much to your program—increased community visibility and more Senior recruits in the form of

parents and grandparents are two of the quickest things to gain. In fact, some of you are in large college towns where there are numbers of CAP cadets from all over looking for a home. The Auburn Squadron has been a great example of how to make this work for you.

There is no reason that every unit in the state, including those located near other squadrons can not have a thriving cadet program. It wasn't too many years ago that we had a bigger saturation of cadets and we can do it again! With the exception of the CAP School Program, there's no reason every unit can't be a composite squadron. We must first get the ones we have to live up to their billing.

In closing, I issue each of you a challenge. If you are one of the units I am talking about, I would like to see strides towards building your cadet program by the end of the calendar year. I'll help you, just ask. By this time next year, let's work together to say that every composite squadron in the Alabama Wing is exactly what they are advertised as.

*"There is no reason that every unit in the state, including those located near other squadrons can not have a thriving cadet program."*

## Region Cadet Leadership School

Ocala, FL - The Southeast Region is offering the Region Cadet Leadership School to improve the knowledge, quality, and leadership abilities of the cadet officers in Civil Air Patrol. RCLS depends not only on the presented course material, but also on the student interaction both as a class and with the staff. As a result, no two classes are ever alike, and the program itself grows and evolves each year. The individual effort, contribution, and participation as a

member of your class are essential. The RCLS will satisfy the requirement as completion of COS/RCLS/ECI13 for achieving their Eaker Award.

The RCLS will be held at the Ocala Fire Academy (Ocala, FL) from 29 Aug – 1 Sept 08. All cadets wishing to attend the RCLS must be active and in good standing at their squadron. Cadets must

have earned their Mitchell award prior to 29 August 2008.

Cadets must submit a CAPF 31 or FLWGF 500 with a \$75.00 check made out to FLWG Civil Air Patrol to:

**1st Lt Heather McSparron**  
**Southeast Region Cadet Leadership School**  
**567 Mimosa Street SW**  
**Palm Bay, FL 32908**  
 Visit the Region Leadership School website at <http://www.flcadet.com/rcls.aspx>.

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About Us

**Cadet Program Quarterly is a publication of Alabama Wing Cadet Programs. Our mission is to build a strong cadet corps, equip that corps with superior staff and resources, and provide quality development to subordinate units. Please contact us for questions, concerns or suggestions.**



## From the Director's Desk

Well, another issue of *Cadet Program Quarterly* has come and gone. I hope you enjoyed this 4th and final installment of this volume. We've completed almost one year since this publication was launched and continue to draw very positive feedback. Remember though, this is your newsletter. If you have feedback, positive or negative, please keep it coming. This publication will evolve over time based on the needs of our membership. By the way, we're still taking volunteers to make up our editorial staff.

The 2008 Encampment in Gulfport, Mississippi was a blast! I hope everyone that came out to train and work feels the same way. We had a total of 94 people down there for the week (78 cadets and 16 seniors), making for a very successful week of

training. In the 10 years I've been in the program, I'd have to say that was the finest staff and finest group of basics that I have ever had the privilege of working with. Thank you to everyone that has helped place our name on peoples tongues as one of the best in the nation.

The 2009 Encampment will be here before you know it. I've already begun preliminary talks with Fort McClellan in Anniston about returning to a place I've grown to know as "home" in my cadet program career. The setting and training environment offered there makes for one of the most dynamic encampment location in the country.

The Alabama Wing FTX program will likely begin in the fall. For cadets looking to be better rounded and

Capt. Justin Smith  
ALWG/DCP



learn some fundamental Emergency Services and GSAR skills, this is a great opportunity. LtCol. Long and Maj. Curry run a top notch program. The training received is on par with what is offered at national schools such as NESA, with many NESA alumni making up the staff.

Last but not least, I hope everyone makes an effort to at least attend Iron Man 2008. What a blast this was last year! Capt. Tate and the Auburn Squadron are wonderful hosts and work hard to make this a marquee event in the wing, region, and nation.

That's all for this issue!

Semper Vigilans,